

To: Michelle DePass/DC/USEPA/US@EPA[]
From: "Ann Rothe"
Sent: Fri 6/18/2010 1:32:12 AM
Subject: Thank you!
[attc68c1.jpg](#)
[Bristol Bay Vision Project Info Insight Summary.pdf](#)

Michelle,

Thank you so much for taking time to talk to me this morning. Below is the letter I sent to Peter Riggs. I took the liberty of mentioning that you suggested I contact him and Don Chen. I'll follow up with a call to both of them next week. I'll let you know if we're able to meet with them and how the meetings go.

In the event you're interested, I attached a copy of the plan for the Vision Project. When you come to Bristol Bay this summer, the project will be underway. I'm sure it will be a topic of discussion with people you'll meet in the region.

Please let me know when you come through Anchorage. I'd love to touch base with you while you're here.

Thanks again for your time.

Best regards,
Ann

Ann Rothe
Deputy Director

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June 16, 2010

Peter Riggs, Program Officer
Natural Resources and Sustainable Development
Ford Foundation
320 East 43rd Street
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Dear Peter,

Michelle DePass suggested I contact you about an exciting project underway in Bristol Bay, Alaska, that the Alaska Conservation Foundation is helping to fund. I'm writing to ask if you would be interested in discussing a collaboration to support this new project because of Ford Foundation's commitment to building sustainable communities and protecting natural resources that support local economies.

ACF, in partnership with the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, has provided initial funding for an effort by the Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) to create a vision for the future of Bristol Bay based on the direction they're given by the villages of the region. Currently, the villages are under intense pressure from international oil and mining companies to endorse offshore oil development in the Bay and a massive mine proposed in the region—the Pebble Mine. The Vision Project is a pro-active effort to give residents of Bristol Bay an opportunity to identify and discuss their long range vision and hopes for their communities and their region. BBNA has established a commission of respected Native elders who will travel to all 28 Bristol Bay villages from late fall 2010 to spring 2011 to gather testimony that will define the vision.

BBNA and its partner organizations—Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation and Bristol Bay Housing Authority—plan to use the vision that emerges from this effort as a guide and a measure for considering future economic activity in Bristol Bay. When a project is suggested in the region from fishing to tourism, renewable resource development to natural resource extraction, decision-makers will need this vision as a measure to determine if the project fits with the values of the people.

ACF and Moore Foundation have provided a total of \$730,000 of the \$1,010,000 budgeted for the Vision Project. We've made this investment because of our commitment to protecting the Bristol Bay ecosystem and the human communities and vibrant culture it sustains. We want to broaden support for the project to include foundations, like Ford Foundation, that have shown an interest in investing in efforts such as this that involve community self-determination, social justice and civic engagement.

We are working with Ralph Anderson, BBNA's executive director, and Jane Angvik, the Vision Project coordinator, to arrange meetings with New York-based foundations the week of July 19-23. We'd like to meet with you during that week to introduce you to Ralph and discuss the possibility of providing funding to BBNA for this innovative and empowering project. Please know that, at Michelle's recommendation, I sent this same letter to Don Chen. I'll call you and Don early next week to discuss a possible meeting time.

Thank you for your time and attention, Peter. I look forward to talking to you.

Best regards,

Ann Rothe

Deputy Director

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